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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BAGHDAD 004094

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PTER](#) [KDEM](#) [IZ](#)

SUBJECT: IRAQI ELECTION/REFERENDUM PREPARATION ON TRACK,
BUT NO REPLACEMENT FOR PIRELLI YET.

REF: BAGHDAD 4071

Classified By: Political Counselor Robert S. Ford for
reasons 1.4 (B) and (D).

11. (C) SUMMARY. The Independent Election Commission of Iraq (IECI) reports that staffing, training, materials, budget, and security preparations for the referendum and elections are moving forward according to plan. IECI expects to announce preliminary referendum results within two days. Staffing Anbar polling stations is a concern, but the IECI thinks it has hired enough workers. If there are no serious complaints on polling day, the IECI can finalize results about four days after the referendum. Meanwhile, the lack of a senior UN advisor to replace interim UN election commission member Carina Pirelli, scheduled to leave on October 17, remains a big concern as we look ahead to the December 2005 elections. END SUMMARY

STAFFING, BUDGET, AND SECURITY PLANNING

12. (SBU) On October 1 the interim UN IECI Carina Pirelli told the international donor community that the preparations for the referendum and elections were moving forward in accordance with the IECI timeline.

-- MATERIALS: More than a third of the 33.5 thousand polling station kits have arrived at the staging center in Sharjah, UAE. Although this distribution is delayed by 2 weeks from previous estimates, the IECI is confident that all ballots and polling kits will arrive in Iraq by October 8. Issues relating to Chinese customs denial of the ink component have been resolved by rerouting the ink to a third country. The staging center is working 24/7 to distribute the materials to Iraq. The kits have just begun to arrive in Baghdad, Erbil, and Anbar and are being transported by international trucking contractors.

-- STAFFING: The UN reports that polling day workers have been identified. For Anbar, the UN/IECI's David Avery told Poloff October 1 that they have 2300 volunteers slotted to go to the Al Anbar polling stations to supplement 800 local polling workers. However, he expressed concerns that that many of these volunteers would not appear for work on polling day.

-- POLLING CENTERS: The plan for polling center operations is complete. The IECI expects polls to be open until 1900 on referendum day, with possible minor changes in closing time depending upon actual events. Due to concern for voter privacy, the media will generally not be allowed cameras or tape recorders in polling centers. However, there will be several designated polling centers that will allow media to bring cameras and other equipment. IECI expects to open five polling centers in the International Zone.

-- TRAINING: Training of polling workers is on-going in the governorates.

-- SECURITY: The basic security plan is set. IECI intends to have two armed IP at each polling center with the middle and outer ring cordon protected by Iraqi military and MNF-I, respectively.

-- DETAINEE VOTING: Although the IECI originally rejected the idea for detainee voting, they are now reconsidering to offer detainee voting at large MNF-I and Iraqi detention sites (ref).

TALLYING

13. (SBU) International electoral team leader Davis Avery told Poloff October 2 that IECI should have preliminary results of the referendum within two days of polling. Votes will be counted at the polling stations immediately after close of polling, and then transmitted to the national tallying center for totaling of results. If there are no serious complaints on polling day, Avery said IECI can

finalize results in about four days. All formal complaints must be filed within three days after the alleged violation. For additional details on IECI rules and regulations on Adjudication of Election and Referendum Complaints and Disputes, and Polling and Counting visit www.ieciraq.org.

WHERE'S THE NEW UN COMMISSIONER?

¶4. (C) UN/EAD representative Pirelli is scheduled to leave Iraq permanently on October 17. Taking into account the required UN two-week security training prior to arrival to Baghdad, her replacement would need to have already started training in order to arrive on time with minimum overlap. Pirelli has been key to resolving many contentious electoral issues, and without someone of her stature advising the IECI on electoral preparations, the quality of the elections process for December may be seriously affected.

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